



# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.3 percent in September 2003 to 4.8 percent in October 2003 because two local call centers added jobs, soccer tournaments brought participants and fans to the area, and student employment at Idaho State University increased. The Pocatello MSA's unemployment rate remained below the October 2002 rate of 6.3 percent. Growth in existing businesses, robust construction and real estate activity, and an early harvest contributed to the rate reduction over the year. Labor force and employment information is shown in Southeast Idaho Table 1.

Unemployment rates for the area by county for October 2003, September 2003, and October 2002 are shown in Southeast Idaho Table 2. Most counties experienced at least a slight unemployment rate increase from September to October 2003. Exceptions included Franklin County, whose unemployment rate was unchanged between September and October 2003, and Caribou and Power Counties, whose unemployment rates increased significantly because of reductions in *Food Processing* and *Mining & Manufacturing*. From one year ago, unemployment rate reductions occurred in Bear Lake County, Franklin County, and Oneida County. The ability of individuals who reside in those counties to find work in Utah contributed to the rate reductions. Bingham County's unemployment rate increase of two-tenths of a percentage point year-over-year was most likely because of layoffs at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. The Pocatello MSA's current

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Oct 2003*	Sept 2003	Oct 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,930	40,980	38,770	-0.1	5.6
Unemployment	1,970	2,170	2,460	-9.2	-19.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	5.3	6.3		
Total Employment	38,960	38,810	36,310	0.4	7.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,760	40,480	38,700	0.7	5.3
Unemployment	1,780	1,890	2,200	-5.8	-19.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.7	5.7		
Total Employment	38,980	38,590	36,500	1.0	6.8
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	34,490	34,020	33,920	1.4	1.7
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,360	4,380	4,400	-0.5	-0.9
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,820	1,820	1,750	0.0	4.0
Manufacturing	2,530	2,550	2,640	-0.8	-4.2
Food Manufacturing	450	470	460	-4.3	-2.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	110	110	120	0.0	-8.3
Machinery Manufacturing	30	30	40	0.0	-25.0
Other Manufacturing	1,940	1,940	2,020	0.0	-4.0
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	30,130	29,640	29,520	1.7	2.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,640	6,650	6,660	-0.2	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	990	980	1,050	1.0	-5.7
Retail Trade	4,380	4,410	4,350	-0.7	0.7
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,220	1,210	1,210	0.8	0.8
Information	690	690	690	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1,760	1,780	1,800	-1.1	-2.2
Professional & Business Services	3,570	3,420	3,220	4.4	10.9
Educational & Health Services	2,820	2,840	3,070	-0.7	-8.1
Leisure & Hospitality	3,330	3,250	3,280	2.5	1.5
Other Services	1,320	1,310	1,200	0.8	10.0
Government Education	5,740	5,350	5,400	7.3	6.3
Government Administration	4,270	4,350	4,210	-1.8	1.4

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

unemployment rate remained below the state's rate of 5.3 percent and the U.S. rate of 6.0 percent.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 470 from September to October 2003 to 34,490 jobs. The increase was driven mainly by the addition of jobs at local call centers, and in state and local education as schools adjusted to enrollments.

The *Goods-Producing Industries*—*Natural Resources & Mining*, *Construction*, and *Manufacturing*—lost 20 jobs from September to October. Good weather throughout October allowed construction to continue without normal seasonal reductions, but manufacturing jobs fell slightly from 2,550 to 2,530.

The *Service-Providing Industries*—*Trade, Transportation & Utilities*; *Information*; *Financial Activities*; *Professional & Business Services*; *Educational & Health Services*; *Leisure & Hospitality*; and *Other Services*—gained 490 jobs over the month.

Southeast Idaho Table 2: County  
Unemployment Rate Comparisons

COUNTY	OCT 2003	SEPT 2003	OCT 2002
Bear Lake	4.9	4.5	5.6
Bingham	4.5	4	4.3
Caribou	8.7	6.9	7.2
Franklin	2.9	2.9	3.9
Oneida	3.5	2.9	4.6
Power	9.6	8.9	8.6

The surge in jobs in the *Service-Providing Industries* occurred mainly in three industry groups. *Professional & Business Services* added 150 jobs because two local call centers increased their workforce and temporary staffing agencies added individuals to assist with harvest. *Leisure & Hospitality* added 80 jobs because of special events that increased business at local hotels and restaurants. *Government Education* added 390 jobs as local schools adjusted employment to meet enrollments and Idaho State University increased student employment. Job changes in *Trade, Transportation & Utilities* were mixed, but overall the industry dropped 10 jobs. Exceptionally good weather throughout October kept shoppers out of the stores and reduced jobs in *Retail Trade* (-30), but some of those reductions were offset by a slight increase in *Wholesale Trade* (10) and *Transportation* (10). Normally, shoppers begin buying warm clothing in October, but the warm weather delayed those purchases this year. *Government Administration* dropped 80 jobs from September to October, which is a normal decrease because many summer recreation jobs end for the winter season.

### **SPECIAL TOPIC: Area Construction**

Area construction continued at a strong pace through August 2003, according to the Wells Fargo Idaho Construction Report – August 2003. Southeast Idaho Chart 1 shows that Southeast Idaho construction increased 28.5 percent in 2003 over 2002. Bannock and Bingham Counties led increased construction with gains of 32.5 percent and 46.8 percent, respectively. Bannock County's increased construction activity in 2003 was mostly in commercial construction with a small increase in residential construction. Bingham County increased mostly in residential construction, but also experienced significant gains in commercial construction. Southeast Idaho continued to outpace statewide construction activity, which gained 14.6 percent over 2002.

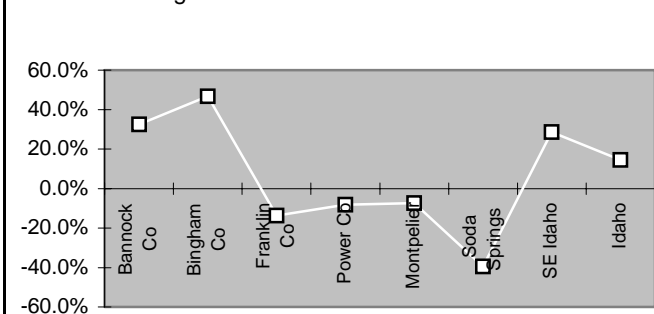
### **AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS**

*Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.*

#### **Bannock County**

- The federal transportation appropriations committee approved \$1.5 million for the Cheyenne Connector in Pocatello. The appropriation is a part of the Transpor-

**Southeast Idaho Chart 1: Southeast Idaho Construction, Percent Change 2002-2003**



tation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill, and must be approved by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

- Portneuf Medical Center has completed plans for a new heart and vascular center. The center will be completed in four phases. The first phase, a \$1.5 million open heart surgical suite and cardiac catheterization lab, will begin in January 2004 and should be completed by July 2004. All phases of the project should be completed and the center fully operational by late 2005.
- Northern Title Company held an open house of their new facility at 1523 Yellowstone in Pocatello. The company completely renovated the old Ponderosa Paint building to accommodate growth. After completing the new facility, the business added two more employees for a total of nine.
- A new restaurant, Riggio's, opened at 230 West Bonneville in Pocatello. The restaurant, located in Old Town Pocatello, boasts an "Old Chicago" atmosphere and likeness. The restaurant serves daily lunch specials, pizza-by-the-slice, and full dinner meals at moderate prices.
- First American Title has begun construction on a new building. The \$1 million-plus, 15,000-square-foot-facility will be located at 2240 East Center in Pocatello. Construction should be completed by June 2005.

#### **Bingham County**

- American Family Insurance opened in Blackfoot. The business is located at 715 West Judicial and employs three people.
- A new convenience store, The Pit Stop, opened in Fort Hall. The store is located on Highway 91 and offers self-serve gourmet coffee, breakfast sandwiches, and hot and cold lunch items. The business employs three people and has plans for expansion in the future.

#### **Oneida County**

- A new business, The Gift Garden, opened at 220 Bannock Street in Malad. The store is an outlet for a variety of brand name products including log furniture built by a local artist, tools, office supplies, assorted gifts, and handcrafted items.

#### **Power County**

- Several businesses in American Falls have remodeled and expanded their operations.
  - » Rockland Pharmacy remodeled their building and added space for Radio Shack to open in their facility.
  - » Hirling Chevrolet purchased Rick's Chevrolet in American Falls. The new owner expanded the business to offer a larger selection of new and used cars.

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